PUBLIC WATER FORUM MINUTES
SERIES 6
March 25, 2010

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, attended a Public Water Forum at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers on the 25th day of March, 2010, and notice of the forum was posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting. The City of Norman is hosting a Public Forum Series on sustainable water resources for our future to explore long term solutions for Norman's drinking water needs. The public forums are open to everyone with an interest in water and Norman's future. Although this forum is not a regularly scheduled meeting of Council a quorum of Council was present; therefore, a summary of the forum is recorded as required by the Open Meeting Act.

PRESENT:	Councilmembers Atkins, Butler, Dillingham, Griffith, Kovach, Quinn, Mayor Rosenthal
ABSENT:	Councilmembers Cubberley and Ezzell

OVERVIEW OF SANITATION FUND.

Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, provided an overview of the current financial condition of the Sanitation Fund.

- Last rate change was July 2004
- March 2008 urban residential customers added curbside recycling at $3.00 per month
- Cost increases since 2004
    - Fuel: 41% for gas; 55% for diesel
    - Engine emissions – add $8.00/truckc
    - Landfill tipping fees - $14.16 to $17.74 per ton (25%)
    - Truck cost increase 40 to 55% - front end loader truck = $147,000 in 2004 and $222,000 in 2009

    Items submitted for the record
    1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Sanitation Fund, Norman Municipal Authority" dated March 2010

OVERVIEW OF WASTEWATER FUND.

Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, provided an overview of the current financial condition of the Wastewater Fund. He said the Wastewater Treatment Plant is a 24 hour operation, seven days per week and processes 11 million gallons of wastewater per day.

- Temporary ½% Sewer Sales Tax was implemented on October 1, 2001, and ended September 30, 2006
- New Development Excise Tax was initiated in October 2001, and is charged on new construction project building permits based on square footage.
- Last wastewater revenue user charge rate was adjusted in November 1996. The current rates are $3.90 base plus $1.60 per 1,000 gallons of treated wastewater.
- Sewer maintenance fee of $5.00 per month was implemented in October 2001

    Items submitted for the record
    1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Wastewater Fund, Norman Utilities Authority" dated March 2010

OVERVIEW OF WATER FUND.

Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, provided an overview of the current financial condition of the Water Fund. He said the Water Treatment Plant is a 24 hour operation, seven days per week, 365 days per year. There are 530 miles of water pipelines and 170,000 water quality test are performed each year.

- Last rate increase was in 2006 which provided funding for the following:
    o Arsenic project
    o Taste and odor solution
    o Resurfacing water storage tanks
    o Urban service area water line replacement
    o Water Treatment Plant projects
    o Three projects from the Water Distribution Model.
- Increased costs for chemicals and fuel
- Residential Rate Structure
    o $4.00 base rate
    o $1.50 Capital Improvement Charge (CIC)
    o 0-5,000 gallons = $2.00 per 1,000 gallons
    o 5,001-15,000 gallons = $2.10 per 1,000 gallons
    o 15,001-20,000 gallons = $2.75 per 1,000 gallons
    o Over 20,001 gallons = $4.95 per 1,000 gallons
- Commercial Rate Structure
    o $4.00 base rate
    o $2.10 per 1,000 gallons

    Items submitted for the record
        1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Utilities Water Division, Norman Utilities Authority" dated March 2010

COMPILATION OF QUESTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE FORUM.	
Those not answered during the session will be addressed at a subsequent session prior to completion of the forum series.	
1.	Why isn't the 50 cents per thousand for arsenic removal and 50 cents per thousand for taste and odor not broken down on the monthly utility bill?
2.	When will the ten new wells be online?
3.	Any plans to add new projects for arsenic treatment?
4.	Is it possible to use some of the arsenic wells for effluent at the Wastewater Treatment Plant?
5.	Are there any conclusions that arsenic in the wells today has a relationship to the extensive use of arsenicals in the past used to get rid of Johnson grass?
6.	What is the procedure for water rate increases?
7.	Has the City considered performing a route optimization study for sanitation.
8.	Will Council consider charged for volume of trash thrown?
9.	DEQ indicated signs warning people about the mercury levels in the lakes in southeast Oklahoma are going back up.
10.	If your not a water customer, will you be billed for water improvements?
11.	Why was Noble not included in the regional solution?
12.	What is the status of installing an emergency generator for the Water Treatment Plant?
13.	Explanation for water rate structure?
14.	What happens to the grease that's collected?
15.	What are the rates for commercial customers and the University of Oklahoma?

COMPILATION OF QUESTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE FORUM. Those not answered during the session will be addressed at a subsequent session prior to completion of the forum series.	
16.	*Should consider charging commercial customers who use more in the summer months than winter months a higher rate.*
17.	*Is Council considering a more frequent rate election schedule?*
18.	*Is staff looking at expanding its use of effluent?*
19.	*What is the annual gross revenue for water?*
20.	*How much water will the additional wells get us?*
21.	*Would non-potable water ever be available for residential use?*
22.	*Could conservation alone meet future water needs?*
23.	*What is the City's current Bad Debt Policy?*
24.	*Would a potential rate increase be charged to everyone, i.e., OU and commercial customers?*

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____   _____
City Clerk   Mayor